

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 7, 12, 14 and 16 and ADD new claim 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A store information processor exchanging information with a terminal, comprising:

a transaction management unit receiving and managing transaction information of a customer;

a purchase record management unit generating a purchase record from the transaction information of the customer;

an estimation unit estimating ~~the a~~ next purchase date of an item class ~~from in~~ accordance with a purchase frequency of the item class calculated from the purchase record, the next purchase date being estimated without requiring input of the customer; and

a notification unit notifying the customer of the estimated next purchase date by transmitting the estimated next purchase date from the store information processor to the terminal of the customer.

wherein the terminal comprises:

a purchase information receiving unit receiving, at a time of a customer transaction, information to prompt the customer to purchase an item as the estimated next purchase date of a class of an item nears, the customer transaction being managed by the store information processor; and

a purchase information display unit displaying the information on a display screen of the display unit.

2. (ORIGINAL) A store information processor according to claim 1, wherein the notification unit sends an electronic mail message to the customer as the notification.

3. (ORIGINAL) A store information processor according to claim 1, further comprising an advance order unit presenting information about a group of items belonging to the

item class to the customer, and receiving and managing information about advance order items to be purchased, which are selected by the customer from the group of items.

4. (ORIGINAL) A store information processor according to claim 2, wherein the advance order unit sends sales promotion information for the group of items belonging to the item class.

5. (ORIGINAL) A store information processor according to claim 1, wherein the notification unit notifies the customer of the estimated next purchase date of an item class designated by the customer before the estimated next purchase date.

6. (ORIGINAL) A store information processor according to claim 1, wherein the notification unit notifies the customer of the estimated next purchase date of an item class determined by a store before the estimated next purchase date.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A store information processing method, comprising:
receiving and managing transaction information of a customer;
generating a purchase record from the transaction information of the customer;
estimating ~~the a~~ next purchase date of an item class ~~from in accordance with~~ a purchase frequency of the item class calculated from the purchase record, the next purchase date being estimated without requiring input of the customer; and
notifying the customer of the estimated new purchase date by transmitting the estimated next purchase date from a store to a terminal of the customer.

8. (ORIGINAL) A store information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the notification is executed using an electronic mail message on the Internet network.

9. (ORIGINAL) A store information processing method according to claim 7, further comprising presenting, to the customer, information about a group of items belonging to the item class and receiving, for management, information about advance order items to be purchased, which are selected by the customer from the group of items.

10. (ORIGINAL) A store information processing method according to claim 7, further comprising notifying the customer of the estimated new purchase date of an item class

designated by the customer before the estimated next purchase date.

11. (ORIGINAL) A store information processing method according to claim 7, further comprising notifying the customer of the estimated next purchase date of an item class determined by a store before the estimated next purchase date.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A store information processing system, comprising:
at least one terminal connected to a communication network; and
a store information processor comprising:
a communication unit connecting the store information processor to the communication network,
a transaction management unit receiving customer transaction information at the at least one terminal,
a purchase record management unit generating a purchase record from the customer transaction information,
an estimation unit estimating ~~the~~ a next purchase date of an item class ~~from in accordance with~~ a purchase frequency of the item class, calculated from the purchase record, the next purchase date being estimated without requiring input of the customer, and
a notification unit notifying the customer of the estimated new purchase date ~~via the by transmitting the estimated next purchase date from the store information processor to the~~ at least one terminal connected to the communication network when the next purchase date nears.

13. (ORIGINAL) A terminal, comprising a display screen receiving, when customer transaction information is processed, information to place an advance order of an item, and displaying the information on the display screen.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A terminal, comprising:
an advance order information receiving unit receiving information to place an advance order of an item to be purchased by a customer during a transaction process managed by a store information processor at the time of processing of the transaction, the received information including a next purchase date of the item estimated without requiring input of a customer; and
an advance order information display unit displaying the information about the advance order on a display screen of the display unit.

15. (CANCELLED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing item purchase information to a customer, comprising:

generating a purchase record for each transaction executed by the customer involving a replenishable item and determining purchase frequency information of the replenishable item from the purchase record; and

providing the customer with an automatic notification indicating a predicated date for an estimated purchase of the replenishable item in accordance with the purchase record and purchase frequency information, wherein the predicted date is provided without requiring input of the customer by transmitting the predicted date from a store information processor.

17. (NEW) A method of providing item purchase information to a customer via a store system, comprising:

estimating a next purchase date of an expendable item via the store system based on a purchase frequency calculated in accordance with stored information of purchased items;

indicating the estimated next purchase date to the customer as the next purchase date nears; and

allowing the customer to advance order the expendable item based on the indicated estimated next purchase date received from the store system.